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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

122856

COUNTRY Palestine

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Activities of the Soviet Section
of the Pan-Slav Union

INFO. [REDACTED]

DIST. 30 October 1947

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ORIGIN [REDACTED]

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SUPPLEMENT [REDACTED]

- 25X1X6 1. A reorganization of the Pan-Slav Union, which resulted in the election of a new Central Committee, has been reported in [REDACTED]. This reorganization apparently followed the July visit to Palestine of Evgueni Podvigin, Chief of Propaganda at the Soviet Legation in Beirut, and reportedly responsible for the proper functioning of the Soviet Section of the Pan-Slav Union in Palestine. 25X1A2g

Washington Note: Recent reports received now designate the Central Committee of the Pan-Slav Union as the General Committee of the Pan-Slav Union.

2. During his visit, Podvigin is reported to have given the following instructions to the Soviet Section of the Union:
- a. To intensify pro-Soviet propaganda through conferences, important anniversary celebrations, support of Soviet press, and the study of the Russian language;
 - b. To maintain contacts with all anti-British organizations, even if they are not pro-Soviet or communistic;
 - c. To increase efforts to establish relations with the Arab League of National Liberation and its leader, Emile TUMA.
3. T. M. Balabasov, President of the General Committee, and A. I. Medyncew, Secretary General and Treasurer of the General Committee, have reportedly received LP 500 (five hundred Palestinian pounds) to cover expenses in connection with their activities. This sum presumably will enable them to increase the pro-Soviet propaganda of the Union. In line with the reorganization of the Union, Balabasov has been reported as having given up his duties as head of the Jaffa-Tel Aviv branch of the Union, and has been replaced in that capacity by A. I. Gonczarow, Second Secretary of the General Committee.
4. Since his arrival in August 1947, the Yugoslav Vice Consul in Jerusalem, Smajo Hadjibegovitch, is said to have shown much interest in the activities of the Pan-Slav Union. Balabasov, Medyncew and Gonczarow have paid him formal calls,

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and Hadjibegovitch is reported to have received them courteously, stressing the fact that he, too, is a Slav of Moslem religion. He appears to have offered his services as an intermediary in their relations with the Central Committee of the Slav Union, which has its headquarters in Belgrade. Balabasov purportedly indicated that though the Soviet Section of the Union is directly under Moscow's jurisdiction, inasmuch as there is no Soviet diplomatic representation in Palestine, he and his colleagues would be happy to avail themselves of the help of the Yugoslav Consulate in Jerusalem.

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